

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

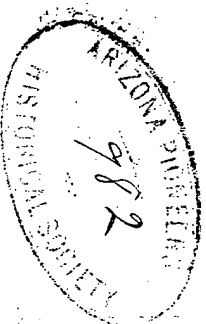
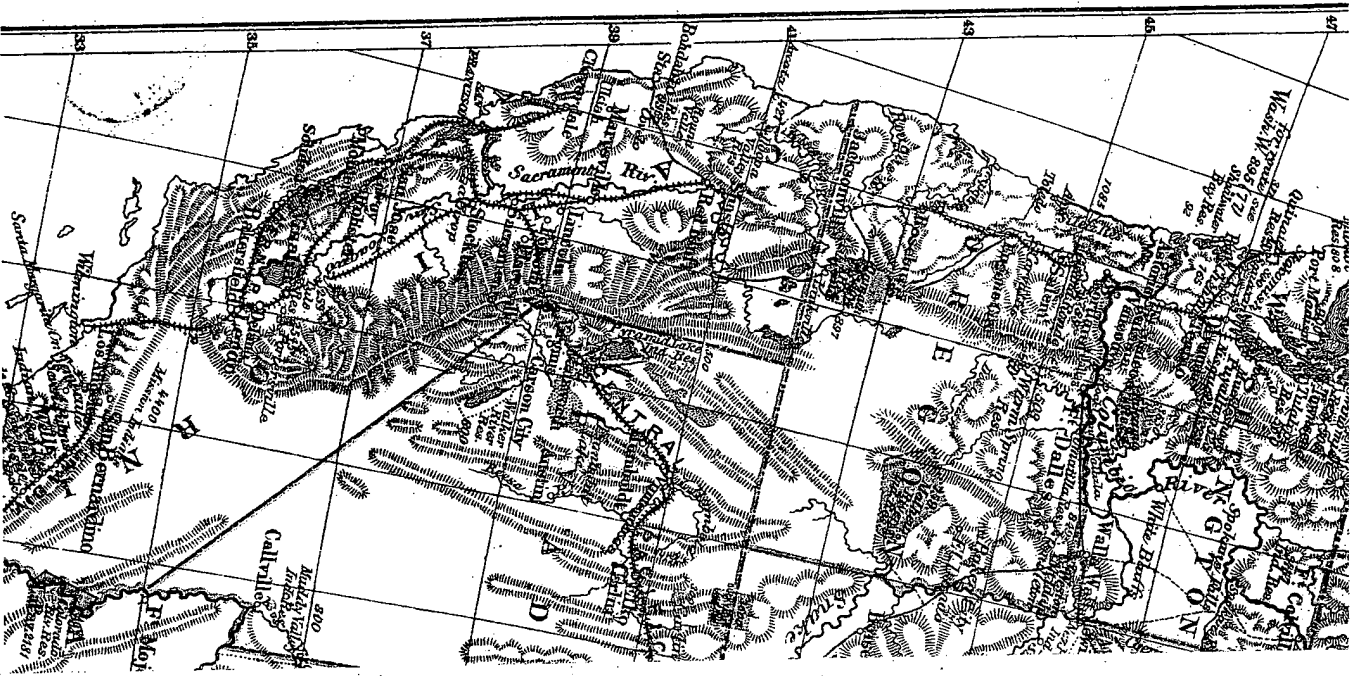
TO THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

FOR

THE YEAR 1878.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE,
1878.



expenditure, as all hopes of thoroughly civilizing these people must rest with the rising generation.

The discovery of a valuable mineral belt in the northeastern portion of the reservation has caused the town of McMillans to be built, and a number of encroachments made upon the reserve to obtain timber, herd stock, and locate mines. I have repeatedly urged the necessity of having the boundary marked in order to be enabled to remove the actual trespassers, but have not yet received the necessary instructions, and until such survey is made the trespassers referred to refuse to acknowledge any right to remove them. The surveyor-general of the Territory informed me that he had represented the importance of the matter to the authorities of the Land Office, and I trust that some arrangement may be made during the coming fall.

The agency Indian police, established in 1875, is the greatest executive assistance an agent could possibly have. The force requires to be large to have sufficient authority, as it has to have members at both the main and branch agencies. During the past year, through its influence, the making of all intoxicating liquors has been stopped and the parties implicated arrested; and not only are the offenders against agency discipline caught and punished, but the institution of a guard-house to confine criminals as a punishment has brought the Indians to making their complaints to the agent in all criminal and civil cases among themselves in place of the old custom of summary punishment inflicted by the party offended. Through this breaking up of the old custom, and the activity and zeal displayed by the Indian police in arresting all offenders against discipline, I am enabled to report that not a single case of murder or homicide has occurred among these Indians, or any crimes committed against settlers, since I have been their agent.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

H. L. HART,
United States Indian Agent.

MOQUIS PUEBLO INDIAN AGENCY, ARIZONA.

August 24, 1878.

Sir: In compliance with your circular-letter of July 1, I have the honor to submit the following as my first annual report of the condition of affairs at this agency:

The agency was discontinued on the 1st of October, 1876, and placed under the supervision of Mr. Alex. G. Irvine, agent of the Navajos. The public property belonging to the agency was all disposed of at public auction; consequently, upon my arrival here in February last, I found nothing but the empty buildings, and they were in a dilapidated condition, having been occupied in the mean time chiefly by the Indians. The remoteness of the location from all kinds of supplies makes improvements quite tedious and expensive.

During the month of February I visited their villages, seven in number, and witnessed, by invitation, two of their important dances, the bean and corn dance, which occur annually to please the Great Spirit so that he will send them abundant crops during the coming season. They are an exceedingly superstitious people. Their villages are located upon high bluffs of rock which rise from eight hundred to one thousand feet above the surrounding plain, and are approached only by narrow, precipitous pathways, over which they pack all the products of their farms, either on their backs or upon asses. Their wood and water are also conveyed in the same manner. Their rooms are entered from the top through a small aperture by means of a ladder, which is the only source they have of ventilation.

From the census which was taken July 1, I find that there were 105 births and only 4 deaths in the first six villages, being an increase of nearly 10 per cent. in population during the past year; they now number 1,140. The Oraibis still refuse to be enrolled. They have a population of at least 650, making the total population of the seven villages 1,790.

After a careful survey of the country, I have recommended the removal of the Moquis Indians and agency to some point on the Little Colorado River between meridians 110° and 111°, for the following reasons:

1st. That a sufficiency of good, arable land, and water for irrigating purposes, can be had for these Indians and also for opening an industrial school, which can be made to contribute largely to the support of said school and which cannot be had at its present location.

2d. It would have a great tendency to Americanize these Indians, by encouraging them to open up separate farms along the river and to abandon their superstitious modes of life and dress by being brought constantly in contact with the Americans.

3d. It would save an expense of several hundred dollars a year for carrying the mail to present agency.

4th. It would very materially reduce the cost of transportation of supplies. It is a difficult matter now to get teams to come into the present agency, and more especially during the winter season.

5th. The labor of erecting the buildings and making the improvements could all be performed by the Indians except a small portion of the carpenter work. The Moquis are good stone-masons and there is plenty of rock along the river. The cost of erecting suitable buildings would not possibly exceed \$5,000.

6th. The present agency building is liable to be flooded at times during the wet season. It was all that we could do to save it from being destroyed by the floods during some of the heavy showers this month. It is located in a canon 10 miles in length, 1½ miles from its head, 150 feet below the surface of the surrounding country, and is from 200 to 300 yards in width. The agency, as now located, can very properly be compared to the inside walls of a prison yard; short curves in the canon obstructing the view at a distance of about 300 yards above and 400 yards below the building; so that in appearance it is surrounded by almost perpendicular bluffs of rock 150 feet high.

7th. Their present mode of living, huddled in villages, each house communicating with the other, induces promiscuous intercourse to such an extent that many are afflicted with venereal diseases. This evil can only be remedied by providing separate homes for each family and causing them to live apart from each other.

These Indians have never been at war with the United States; have always been friendly with the whites, with few exceptions, and consequently are deserving of some protection and relief by the government. They were formerly the possessors of all this country, but have been driven to their present location for defense against the more powerful tribes who have surrounded them.

The Moquis Pueblo Indians are more inclined to devote themselves to the cultivation of the soil than to pastoral pursuits. The farming lands surrounding the villages are barren and unfit for agricultural purposes, and but little better for grazing. Fair crops of corn, beans, melons, and squashes are produced on an average of three out of five years. Less than an average crop of corn and about one-half a crop of beans, melons, and squashes have been raised the past season by the almost unrelenting labor of the Indians of this agency. At the commencement of spring the weather was cold and wet, and extremely unfavorable to agricultural pursuits. As soon as the corn first planted appeared above ground it was totally destroyed by either frost or insects, and second planting was devoured by caterpillars as soon as it was a few inches high; thus rendering a third planting necessary in most instances. Later in the season a large portion of the lands under cultivation were overflowed with water from the more elevated country surrounding it, which caused the destruction of a considerable percentage of the growing crops. The people of Tequi Village have lost their entire crop, with few exceptions, and are anxious for a change of location. During the past year quite a number of families of Moquis have been engaged in cultivating wheat upon lands in proximity to the agency, but the rains and floods which occurred in August materially injured their crops, about one-third being lost thereby. Wheat was also raised by ten families of Moquis at the Mormon settlements upon the Little Colorado River. They were farming upon shares with the Mormons. The Moquis are yearly extending the area of land planted by them, and the deficiency arising from short crops, does not, therefore, cause any great degree of suffering or want. The Moquis Indians do not, like most other Indians, resist innovations upon their customs and habits; they seem exceedingly desirous of acquiring the white man's mode of farming, and thoroughly examine and investigate any new manner of cultivating the soil.

There has been no school in operation among these Indians since September, 1876. They manifest a great desire to have their children educated. They guarantee to keep from forty to fifty scholars in regular attendance at the boarding school as soon as it shall be opened. They also ask to have a primary school opened in the second and fourth villages, so as to accommodate the smaller children of the six villages and those who will be deprived of the advantages of the boarding school by having other duties to perform at home. I find a marked difference between the young men who attended the boarding school which was in operation at this agency during the year 1875 and part of 1876, in manners, dress, energy, &c.

I would recommend that six of the brightest Moquis boys, sixteen years of age, be sent to a State normal school for four or five years, where they could have the greatest advantages for the least amount of money. I feel confident that they could be maintained in many of the State normal schools for \$300 each per year. These young men upon their return would make competent teachers, as they would understand both the English and the Moquis languages, and could be employed by the government. Such a system would certainly do much toward educating, civilizing, and christianizing these Indians.

There have been no missionaries nor any missionary work attempted among these Indians that I can learn of.

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The only incident that has occurred among these Indians of a serious nature during the past year was the murder of one and the wounding of another of their number by four Pi-Utes, while on a trading expedition to Saint George, Utah. The Pi-Utes were arrested by the Mormons, turned over to the civil authorities, and the leader of the party sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment in the penitentiary.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

WM. R. MATTER,
United States Indian Agent.

HOOPA VALLEY AGENCY, CALIFORNIA.
August 19, 1878.

Sir: In compliance with instructions, dated Interior Department, Office of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C., July 1, 1878, I would respectfully report that, owing to there being no appropriation for this reservation during the past year, very little improvement has been made, as the reservation, when turned over to me, was entirely dismantled. I applied to the honorable commissioner to have the stock that was taken from here to Round Valley returned. The agent at Round Valley was instructed to turn over to me such stock as he could spare. Strange to say, out of the large number of horses, mules, &c., driven off, numbering about fifty, only four old, broken-down horses and four mules, and a lot of old straps, called harnesses, could be spared.

With one employé, at a salary of \$25 per month, I succeeded in repairing the fences and getting under cultivation about fifty acres of wheat and about the same of hay. I have harvested about forty tons of hay and will have about 50,000 pounds of wheat. The grist-mill is entirely useless. If it could be used, and this wheat turned into flour, it would relieve the wants of these Indians greatly, as the old and sick are about destitute. During the past year I have expended about \$1,350—\$350 for the purchase of farming implements and \$1,000 in the purchase of supplies for the working men and the sick.

The Indians on this reservation are peaceable and well disposed. I regret to say that they have not received much encouragement to remain "good Indians." They need an active, honest, and energetic agent to superintend and advise them. Many of them are industrious and willing to work, and I recommend that not so much of the appropriation be used in the employment of white labor, and a small allowance of the money be paid the Indian for his day's work.

The resignation of Dr. Reid, physician on the reservation, was accepted, to take effect December 1, 1877. This left me without a doctor. Many of the Indians were sick and suffering for want of medical attendance. Dr. Price, assistant surgeon U. S. A., could not accept the appointment of physician, and it was actually necessary for some one to look after these unfortunate people, as a number of them were in a most deplorable condition. I authorized and requested Dr. Price to render them every attention. He was most assiduous in his attention, and I earnestly recommend that some action be taken by the honorable Commissioner toward compensating Dr. Price for the valuable service rendered the department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

RICH. C. PARKER,
Captain Twelfth Infantry, Acting Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

ROUND VALLEY INDIAN AGENCY,
Mendocino County, California, August 12, 1878.

Sir: I have the honor to submit this my first annual report of affairs at this agency, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1878. I assumed charge here October 1, 1877, so that three months of the fiscal year had already passed.

This reservation contains 102,118.19 acres, or about 159 square miles; of this, only about 4,000 acres lie in Round Valley and on the southern boundary line; 1,080 acres of this land is claimed and held by three parties, as swamp and overflowed land, and is yet in litigation. The remainder of the land is hilly, some rolling, and some mountainous. All but a small portion affords excellent grazing for stock, and is mostly held at present by white men, who have over 40,000 sheep, 1,300 cattle, 500 horses, and 600 hogs, that derive their entire feed from these lands, grazing thereon the entire year. Could we be put in sole possession of these lands, they would soon be covered with a similar number of stock, and all for the benefit of the Indians, as they can easily obtain

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them to keep on shares, and thus, in a short time, have an abundance of their own, and be procuring a good livelihood in the mean time. There are many spots scattered over these hills that will produce the best of vegetables, with ordinary cultivation.

NUMBER OF INDIANS, ETC.

The census of the Indians on this reservation, as just taken, gives 326 men, 118 boys, 423 women, 98 girls, making a total of 965. This number is subject to variation, and will be, as many wish to visit their friends, and thus are going and coming. Such a life is greatly to be deplored, as they cannot become successful in civilized pursuits while leading a nomadic life. All our Indians wear the dress of civilized life, (when they can get it); many live in comfortable board or log houses, and others in "campodies" (huts), made of puncheons, pieces of boards, &c., or of reeds (a kind of rush), which grow in great abundance on the wet land in this valley.

Besides the Indians living here, there are various bands scattered around, from 20 to 250 miles distant, amounting in all to over 1,500, as near as I learn from different parties from whom I have received letters, complaining of them, and wishing me to bring them on to this reservation. Some of the most distant tribes were once here. In each of these tribes are a few who are industrious, and obtain a very good living by working for others, but the larger part are non-producers, essentially, and hence a burden to the communities where they live.

PRODUCTIONS.

We have not raised as much grain this year as has been reported in years past, owing to the very wet winter, much of the wheat was drowned out, and the ground was too wet to seed well in the spring. We have cut 700 tons of hay, and will probably have 4,000 bushels of wheat, 2,500 bushels of oats, 1,500 bushels of barley, 2,500 bushels of corn, 250 bushels of potatoes, 50 bushels of beans, 1,000 bushels of apples, and 40 tons of squashes. The hops (30 acres) promise well, both as to quality and quantity, but not as to price, and it is doubtful whether they will pay for gathering and curing this year. About 12,000 pounds were cured and sold last year, but they did not quite pay expenses, owing to the low price at which they sold.

The Indians have about 300 acres included in their gardens, but they are not cultivated as yet after the most approved methods, and hence the results are not as we could wish they might be.

IMPROVEMENTS.

We have not been able to make many improvements the last nine months of the year, as there was but little lumber left when I took charge, and none could be manufactured till after July 1, yet there have been a few Indian houses built. We have also commenced a large barn, 60 by 80 feet, at headquarters, which will hold 100 tons of hay, and furnish stabling for 20 mules and 20 oxen.

The hop-house and grist-mill were finished during the first quarter of the fiscal year, and are a credit to the reservation; they were fully reported by my predecessor.

We have built 50 rods of good board fence, moved and reset 1,350 rods, and thoroughly repaired 640 rods of rail fence.

Twenty acres of willow thickets have been cleared and grubbed; 240 rods of ditch, 12 feet wide and 3 feet deep, have been cut to protect land from overflow at high water. One mile of turnpike road has been made between the upper and lower quarters.

MILLS.

We have two mills, a grist-mill and a saw-mill. The grist-mill was rebuilt last year, using the same machinery. During the wet season it can be run with water-power, but after harvest, until the rains come, we are obliged to use steam-power, using heretofore our portable engine; but there is really danger to life and property in using it in the mill, as it has not the power necessary without too high pressure for its age. During the past winter our mill has earned on custom-work over \$1,300. As there is no other grist-mill within 60 miles it is the only place settlers can get their grain ground. Extensive repairs will have to be made to our mill-dam before another winter. The saw-mill is located about 6 miles on an air-line and 15 by the wagon-road from this agency, and is capable of cutting from four to seven thousand feet of lumber per day. It is run by steam-power, and cannot be run during the winter on account of cold storms and snow. This fall we expect to cut 150,000 feet of fencing, and replace old rails with a good board fence. We expect also to cut all lumber necessary for building Indian houses, barns, and necessary repairs.

AGENCY BUILDINGS.

We carry on our property accounts a large number of dwelling-houses that are really not worthy the name, as they are old and rotten, ready to tumble down. There is but one really good substantial house on this reservation, which was formerly occupied by the commanding officer at Camp Wright, two miles from this agency. It